

Minutes of the Southeast Regional Council held at the Moab Employment Center on Sept 16, 2005

Members Attending: Deb Dull, Pam Juliano, Mike McCandles, Ira Hatch, Jody Allred for Nancy Bentley, Don Jarrell, Karl Kraync, Kirk Sitterud, Anne Mackiewicz, Kim Zollinger, Don Larson, Norman Johnson, Claudia Berner, Marilyn Holliday for Toni Dayish, Ken Davey

Staff: Susan Etzel, Delena Fish, Shelly Ivie, Stephen Jensen, Sheryl Nisely, Christopher Love, Bob Gilbert, Clistie Tucker, Lisa Roman, Katie Bierschied

Guest: Mrs. Hatch

Deb Dull welcomed everyone. Kim Zollinger (United Way of Eastern Utah) and Claudia Berner (Lisbon Valley Mine) were introduced as new members.

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Norman Johnson moved approval with Don Larson seconding. Vote was unanimous.

Deb the gave the Chair's report. She presented information about the improvements and associated costs that are scheduled for the power plants owned by Pacificorp. She emphasized that these are estimates, and that timetables may slide a little, particularly since some of the items being manufactured are being done in states that were impacted by Katrina. Most of the labor force involved in the improvements are temporary workers that will come in, stay for a few weeks or months, then move on to other projects.

A training vendor application has been received from Price Mine Service. Initial evaluation by staff indicated there are some additional items that need to be provided by the vendor. As they are received, the application may be presented to members via email for review and approval/denial.

#### Committee Reports

Sheryl gave the report for the Targeted Industries Task Force, saying that the task force will be focusing on apprenticeships in the electrical power industry, as many of the skills required are now possessed by mostly older workers. New workers need to be trained. Sheryl said the task force wants to develop more information for youth, and see additional apprenticeships in these areas. The Task Force is looking to invite the director from the Office of Apprenticeships to come to the next meeting and provide further direction to increase the number of apprenticeships.

Norman Johnson, Youth Council Chair, reported that the main item for the Youth Council this meeting was the revision of the Ranking Priority form. Staff had visited with all of the local LICs and received feedback from them on the form revision. At the Youth Council meeting this morning, the Council reached a consensus on the ratings to be used on the form. Norm said that even though a youth may qualify for the program, available budget is still an important part of being able to serve the youth. The form was

distributed to Council members, and, after some discussion, Norm moved the form be approved by the Council with an implementation date of Nov 1 and the form have a “minimum of points required for service” of 12. Karl seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Norm said the Council also reviewed the youth budget, and reported that Tisheena Redhouse, a Blanding youth, will be recognized at the Council of Councils in Provo on Oct 13<sup>th</sup>.

Pam provided a brief summary of the Southeast Plan of Service that is contained in the agenda packet. The plan addresses the elements as required by the Utah Statute that established the Department of Workforce Services and Regional Councils back in 1997. Pam touched on the performance measures that will be reported to the Council each quarter, and the responsibilities of the Council that are described in the plan.

Karl K reported for the Task Force on Entrepreneurial programs, which met on Sept 14<sup>th</sup>. The task force considered several items including the possibility of one-stop Business Resource Centers, the new Business Resource Center concept being formulated by the State; federal legislation that could simplify the RFP process; developing additional strategies to obtain funding for a revolving loan program for startup businesses; formalizing around the region the concept of regional business development centers, where there is no wrong door. Assignments were made to several members, with a report back date of Nov 15.

Karl also said that a group met with Martin Frey, new director for the Economic Development division in Gov Huntsman’s office. He felt that Martin accepted much of the group’s vision of working with and encouraging startup businesses in rural Utah. DeLynn Fielding and Nick Tatton have had follow-up sessions with Martin. Karl said there may be some micro-loan funds that come available as a result of the sessions, but don’t expect anything for at least 12 months. A micro-loan is a smaller amount of funds that are provided to lower income individuals to help with a business, with the expectation that the funds are repaid. Karl said that the SUESBIF program accomplished what the state is wanting to do in relationships and outcomes, but that it is not so easy to duplicate in populated areas.

Mike McCandles then reported on the Willow Creek Energy Training Center. He said that there should be answers within 2-3 weeks on the federal proposal. They are waiting on local commitments for cash and matching funding. He said that training programs for energy workers are being increased by CEU and the ATC. There are other options besides the full-scale energy training center. The ATC is offering a beginning energy training class, and CEU is offering two energy management classes. Mike said that the energy producers really want something to happen, including training on the soft skills: reading, writing and communication. He said that any training that is developed must be industry-driven. Karl added that the energy training opportunities will be provided, with or without a grant by CEU and the ATC. The energy producers want to see some training programs, and will select the training that best fits their needs.

### Christopher Love

Deb then introduced Christopher Love, Deputy Director at the Department of Workforce Services. Chris said he was glad to be there, and wants to get out and visit the Regional Councils. Our Councils are important, and he thanked the members for giving of their time and talent to help our Department. Chris then provided an update of the services being offered to 500 evacuees at Camp Williams: He said that clothing was a problem, but was being addressed. Most of the evacuees thought they were flying to Houston, and were surprised when the plane ended in SLC. Workforce Services has had a continuous staff of 15-20 there, helping with FEMA applications, food stamps, and clothing. Other service providers, including doctors, dentists, and ophthalmologists have been involved. Lately, the staff have become more of a travel agency helping those who want to leave with transportation options. Chris said the citizens of Utah have really stepped up. Public safety officials have been there from the beginning, doing background checks and keeping those with criminal backgrounds away from others. He thought that of the 500 that came, maybe 200 will stay and become permanent residents of Utah. He commended the Office of Child Care for setting up a center very quickly and providing a nice play area for the children. He said the Department got a lot of kudos for its work in carrying out the plans and being so flexible.

Shelly then provided the Director's report. She said that Judy was in New York attending the Letterman Show and other fun activities. She reviewed the region goals (shown below) that have been set for the year, and the performance measures that are in the packet.

1. Promote economic stability and self-sufficiency for all our customers
2. Contribute to the development of a workforce that is prepared for the jobs of today and the future
3. Provide a dynamic employment exchange system
4. Support quality of work-life for all DWS employees

The region will provide updates each quarter on progress towards the goals.

Anne Mackiewicz asked if the region could also report on Child Care timeliness as part of its performance measures. Shelly said it could be included.

Steve Jensen then told about the recent visit of Overstock.com personnel to Blanding to enlist Navajos to provide items for sale on Overstock or Worldstock.com. It went very well, with 40 artisans coming to show their wares. 32 were selected and given upfront payments totaling \$50,000 as part of the contracts with Worldstock. The average selling time is 3 minutes to 10 days once the items are listed on the Internet site. Worldstock.com officials will be back in October.

### Employment Center Reports

Deb then asked if there were additional items from the Employment Center Managers. Sheryl said that a family of seven from New Orleans has moved to Moab.

Susan said that the DWS workers have been asked to leave their current office in East Carbon, so she is looking at possible office options there. One building where there was space was not in good shape and also had some security problems. The Mayor of East Carbon said that most residents go to Price regularly and could go into the Price Office for services.

Delena said that 1 evacuee from the hurricane came to Emery Co. He is highly educated and may stay. She reminded everyone of the Castle Valley Economic Summit scheduled for Oct 7<sup>th</sup>. There is a \$20 registration fee, which includes two meals.

Commissioner Hatch asked if there could be a tab that said “Employment Center Reports” on it. Bob felt that was an excellent idea and would be implemented.

#### Other Business

Deb suggested that the Council send a letter to DWS expressing thanks for its good work in handling the Katrina evacuees. All expressed support for the letter.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.